



Department of Public Works

Indianapolis

Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

07-19-2012

MANAGED GROWTH AREAS

- Managed Growth Areas are sections of the parks and greenways that used to be mowed on a regular basis, but due to changes in use, they are now cut differently.
- In reviewing park use over time, the City of Indianapolis determined that we were mowing vast tracks of turf that were never being used for any purpose. This resulted in wasted resources and unneeded environmental costs, because the City was unnecessarily running lawn mowers for thousands of hours each year.
- Currently in Managed Growth Areas, workers top cut or bush-hog the grass to a length that's typically 5-6". Managed Growth Areas are cut about every four to six weeks during the heavier growth periods, a little less thereafter.
- If there are residential areas bordering the Managed Growth Areas, the city will regularly mow a border of 12-15 feet.
- Over time, if use dictates, the Managed Growth Area may be returned to the regular mowing schedule or converted into a Prairie Restoration Area or simply reforested.



Washington Park Prairie Restoration Area

PRAIRIE RESTORATION AREAS:

- Prairie Restoration Areas are growth areas managed by the Land Stewardship Section of Indy Parks.
- These areas have been planted with native wildflowers, native grasses and bird-friendly plant species. The intent over time is to create colorful growth areas with three bloom periods (spring, summer and fall) and to benefit the native bird population.
- When first planted, PRAs can often look unkempt and weedy. However, in a year or two, flowers begin to bloom, and the system begins to take shape.
- Over time, the native grasses become more dominant, which while less colorful, is very beneficial to the ecosystem and preferred by nesting birds.
- Maintenance costs also decrease over time, allowing the City to invest in more prairie restoration and tree plantings.



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Paul Ruster Park Prairie Restoration Area



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Action Park Prairie Restoration Area



Cooper Grove Park Prairie Restoration Area



Bellamy Park Prairie Restoration Area